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| 09/955,395      | 09/18/2001  | Younger Ahluwalia    | A34355-070015.0181  | 1196             |

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EXAMINER

RUDDOCK, ULA CORINNA

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

1771

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/955,395

Applicant(s)

AHLUWALIA, YOUNGER

Examiner

Ula C Ruddock

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4-6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restriction***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-13, drawn to a fire resistant fabric material, classified in class 442, subclass 136.
  - II. Claims 14-19, drawn to a fire resistant mattress, classified in class 5, subclass 690.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as mutually exclusive species in an intermediate-final product relationship. Distinctness is proven for claims in this relationship if the intermediate product is useful to make other than the final product (MPEP § 806.04(b), 3rd paragraph), and the species are patentably distinct (MPEP § 806.04(h)). In the instant case, the intermediate product is deemed to be useful by itself or as insulation and the inventions are deemed patentably distinct since there is nothing on this record to show them to be obvious variants. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions anticipated by the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.
3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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4. During a telephone conversation with Alicia Russo on March 17, 2003, a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-13. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 14-19 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahluwalia (US 5,965,257) in view of GB 2167060 (GB '070) or Dugan et al. (US 4,994,317) or Dombeck (US 6,228,497). Ahluwalia disclose a structural article comprising a substrate having an ionic charge which is coated with a coating having essentially the same ionic charge. The coating consists of a filler material and a binder material. The substrate is preferably fiberglass and the filler is selected from flay ash, charged calcium carbonate, and ceramic microspheres. The binder is preferably acrylic latex (abstract). The articles are planar in shape and the substrate is coated on one side or both sides depending on the intended application (col 3, ln 42-44). The structural material may be coated with a water repellent material, an algaecide, an antifungal material, an antibacterial material, a surface friction agent, a flame retardant material, and a coloring dye (col 3, ln 54-67 to

col 4, ln 1-3). Ahluwalia disclose the claimed invention except for the teaching that the filler material also includes clay and that the material comprises 65-90% glass fibers, 20-80% clay filler, and from 80-20% weight of acrylic latex binder material.

**GB 2167060** discloses a fire resistant material comprising glass wool fibers and one or more selected clays (abstract). The clays are selected to provide an endothermic reaction in the fire resistant material (page 2, ln 5-11). Dugan et al. (**US 4,994,317**) disclose a fabric suitable for use as a flame barrier fabric comprising a flame durable textile fabric (abstract). The fabric comprises inorganic yarns such as glass (col 2, ln 37). To provide enhanced resistant to flame and heat, hydrated clay may be incorporated in a silicone layer (col 3, ln 58-61). Dombeck (**US 6,228,497**) disclose a high temperature resistant glass fiber composition comprising glass fibers and a latex binder (abstract). Clay fillers are frequently added to inorganic fiber products to improve their fire resistance (col 1, ln 19-21 and col 5, ln 4-7).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used the clay filler of either GB 2167060 or Dugan et al. or Dombeck in the structural article of Ahluwalia, motivated by the desire to increase the flame and heat resistance of the article.

Furthermore, it should be noted that optimizing the amounts of glass fibers, clay filler, and binder material in the composition are result effective variables. For example, the amount of clay filler directly affects the flame resistance of the composition. The amount of binder material directly affects the strength of the composition. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a material comprising 65-

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90% glass fibers, 20-80% clay filler, and from 80-20% weight of acrylic latex binder material, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F. 2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). In the present invention, one would have optimized these amounts motivated by the desire to obtain an article with increased strength and flame resistance.

### **Conclusion**

7. The prior art of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Langer et al. (US 6,051,193) disclose a fire protection mat including acrylic latex binder, a clay material, fiberglass substrate, mica and glass spheres, and a fungicide and bactericide material, but fails to disclose that the substrate has an ionic charge coated with a coating having essentially the same ionic charge. Horner, Jr. et al. (US 6,365,533) disclose a glass fiber mat, a clay filler, antimony oxide filler, and acrylic latex binder, but fails to disclose that the substrate has an ionic charge coated with a coating having essentially the same ionic charge.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ula C. Ruddock whose telephone number is (703) 305-0066. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 6:30 AM to 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor Terrel Morris can be reached at (703) 308-2414.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.

Ula C. Ruddock *UCR*

Patent Examiner

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3/24/03

*Ula Ruddock*